



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Date: June 1, 2010

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Nancy Sousa

Minutes approved on:

Interpreters: Carol Fay and Maureen McEntee

Cart: Shelly Deming

RIDE: Paulajo Gaines – **Attorney:** Sara Rapport

Call to Order

- a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the work session of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:07 p.m. at One Capitol Hill, Conf. Rm A, Providence, RI 02908

Roll Call of Board of Trustees

- b. **In Attendance:** Travis Zellner, Chairman, Jodi Merriman, Marie Lynch, Harvey Corson, Mary Wambach, Iraida Williams, Amy Roche (late)
Iraida Williams left at 8:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Discussion of Board of Trustees Logistics

Board Officer Roles and Decision making:

Lori Dunsmore discussed the calendar matrix for BOT meeting; staff and student handbooks are a priority; will work with legal to get approval before submitting to Board. Meeting and work session dates.

Regular meeting agendas: It was decided that BOT meetings would be held on the first Tuesday of every month, starting in August 2010 – there will not be a regular BOT meeting in July, just a work session in July on the 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Board Policies: It was discussed and decided that the student and staff handbooks would be a priority. Other policies would be perused by legal before presenting to BOT members.

Minutes procedures and format: It was discussed and decided that the minutes were to be kept brief/simple, not a precise record of every word; with CART notes as reinforcement only. Nancy Sousa, RISD Executive Staff Assistant, will take the notes at meetings, submit a draft to the board secretary for editing/confirmation of motions, etc.

Title IIa – Questions and Responses:

Board members asked and received a brief background of the process: timelines from Lori Dunsmore and an explanation from Mary Pendergast of the entire process and the goals; with input from Paulajo Gaines. They confirmed that all staff had a chance to review their file and the opportunity to obtain highly qualified and certified status, if they were not already highly qualified. The staffing plan was approved by RIDE on 5/17/10 and 27 teachers were recalled – only two were terminated. Staff assured the Board that students' needs were analyzed and re-analyzed to be sure that all students' needs are met, along with PBGR requirements. It was noted that this process of aligning staff assignments to student needs will be done on a yearly basis.

Discussion of Director Evaluation Tool: Travis Zellner noted that the policy and the tool for evaluating the Director was approved in June 2009; the board can create questions based on the Standard; Lori noted that in the by-laws, it does not say who evaluates the Director, which needs clarification; needs to be realistic, teachers have to be evaluated too. A suggestion was made to have a work session to focus on the matrix and the Director's evaluation – decided it would be June 15th

RI Leadership Standards: Travis noted that there was not going to be a lot of discussion of the Director's Evaluation at this meeting – Lori just received it today – Scott Mueller will be here then; send questions to Lori via email.

Additional Resources:

Discussion of Awareness and Updates on RISD Student Achievement:

Travis noted that the board wants to prioritize student achievement – and it should be on every agenda. Lori noted that she will report on students' achievement/growth on a monthly basis. Members asked for more information about how many of our students are going to college – are the students well prepared? They would like to see more about NWEA – share state performance indicators for special education – what areas are challenging – would like to have that information for July work session. Lori noted that we are starting to follow-up on students when they leave the school. Lori also noted that she would like to see all the board at graduation on June 11th and discussed her plans for Open House and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2)

- c. **MOVED Harvey Corson AND SECONDED Amy Roche:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 8:02 p.m.. Approved unanimously.
- d. **MOVED Mary Wambach AND SECONDED Harvey Corson:** That the Board would return to Open Session at 8:37 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- e. **MOVED Mary Wambach AND SECONDED Harvey Corson:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

Motions from Executive Session: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.